



Substitute House Bill No. 6948

Public Act No. 07-128

***AN ACT CONCERNING STOLEN MILITARY VALOR AND
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 53-378 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

(a) Any person, other than an officer or enlisted man or woman of the armed forces, [of the United States,] as defined [by] in section 27-103, or any reserve component thereof, or of [this] the state, as defined [by] in section 27-2, or a member of a school or college military or naval organization, organized, uniformed and drilling as such, or [an inmate] a resident of any veterans' or soldiers' home, or a police officer, who, at any time, wears the uniform, or any part of the uniform, of any of said armed forces, reserve components or organizations, [units or services,] within the state, shall be fined not less than [one] five hundred dollars [nor] or more than [five hundred] one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than six months, or both, provided nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting any person having been honorably discharged from any of said armed forces, reserve components or organizations [, units or services] from wearing [his] the person's uniform in accordance with the laws of the United States or the state and the regulations governing any of said armed

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forces, reserve components or organizations, [units or services,] or any person taking part in any play, opera, theater or other entertainment from wearing such uniform while actually engaged in such entertainment.

(b) Any person who falsely represents himself or herself, orally or in writing, to have been awarded any decoration or medal authorized by the United States Congress for the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or any of the service medals or badges awarded to the members of such armed forces, or the ribbon, button or rosette of any such decoration, medal or badge, or any colorable imitation thereof, shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars or more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) No person may deny any individual within the jurisdiction of this state full and equal accommodations in any place of public accommodation, resort or amusement because of such individual's membership in the armed forces of the state, as defined in section 27-2 of the general statutes, or the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103 of the general statutes, or on account of the wearing of the uniform of any such armed forces, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to all persons.

(b) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars or more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

Sec. 3. Section 52-571 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

Any person who subjects or causes to be subjected any other person to the deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities usually enjoyed by the public, on account of membership in the armed forces

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of [this] the state, as defined by section 27-2, or of the [United States,] armed forces, as defined by section 27-103, or on account of the wearing of the uniform of such service, or who, on account of such membership or the wearing of any such uniform, deprives any other person of the full and equal enjoyment of any advantages, facilities, accommodations, amusement or transportation, subject only to the limitations established by law and applicable alike to all persons, or who, on account of such membership or the wearing of such uniform, discriminates in the price for the enjoyment of any such privileges, shall forfeit and pay to the person injured thereby [double damages, to be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction within this state] the greater of one thousand dollars or treble damages, together with costs and a reasonable attorney's fee.

Approved June 25, 2007